

Remarks

Claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 14 are amended. Claims 1 to 14 are pending in this application of which only claims 1, 12 and 14 are in independent form.

Claims 7, 11, 13 and 14 were objected to because of the informalities set forth at the top of page 2 of the action. The claims or the disclosure are amended to correct the informalities noted and should now be acceptable. Claim 13 is amended to correct a typographical error made during the translation of the application when it was originally filed in the PTO on December 26, 2001 so that claim 13 now recites the correct wavelength as set forth in the German patent application to which reference is made in the declaration and power of attorney attached to the original application.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 to 14 were rejected as being anticipated by Shigematsu and claims 1 and 12 to 14 were rejected as being anticipated by Endo. The following will show that independent claims 1, 12 and 14 patentably distinguishes the invention over these references.

The applicants have reviewed the above references and note that none of these references provides any suggestion which could lead our person of ordinary skill to the idea of providing the first lens group of a projection objective so that this lens group includes only lenses having a positive refractive power as

set forth in applicants' claim 1 with the clause:

"said first lens group including only
lenses having positive refractive power;"
(emphasis added)

In Endo and Shigematsu et al, lenses of negative refractive power are provided in the first lens group. Also, there is no suggestion in either of these references which would enable our person of ordinary skill to hit upon the idea of providing only lenses of positive refractive power in the first lens group. Claims 12 and 14 also include this feature and limitation so that claims 1 to 14 should now patentably distinguish the invention over each of these two references.

Claims 1, 4 and 8 to 11 were rejected as being anticipated by Reinecke et al. Independent claims 1, 12 and 14 were also rejected as being anticipated by Takahashi et al and claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Yoneyama. Reinecke et al, Takahashi et al and Yoneyama all have United States filing dates which are later in time than the December 22, 2000 date on which German patent application 100 64 685.9 was filed and on which priority is claimed herein. Accordingly, applicants will submit a verified literal translation of said German patent application 100 64 685.9 thereby antedating the effective filing dates of the applied references Reinecke et al, Takahashi et al and Yoneyama.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully request these references be withdrawn in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter Ottesen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Walter Ottesen
Reg. No. 25,544

Walter Ottesen
Patent Attorney
P.O. Box 4026
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20885-4026

Phone: (301) 869-8950

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